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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/997,979	11/30/2001	Robert M. Dunn	CA920000047US1	4315

7590 09/05/2006
A. Bruce Clay
IBM Corporation T81/503
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Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

EXAMINER

KRAMER, JAMES A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3627

DATE MAILED: 09/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/997,979	Applicant(s) DUNN, ROBERT M.	
	Examiner James A. Kramer	Art Unit 3627	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 July 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-8, 10-16, 26-32, 34-41, 43 and 44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-8, 10-16, 26-32, 34-41 and 43-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 2-8, 10-16, 26-32, 34-41, 43 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Carter, III (hereinafter Carter).

Carter teaches a method and system for pricing products in multi-level product and organizational groups. In particular, for each of the plurality of products there are adjustments to the basic price. For example, there are applicable state and local taxes, shipping charges and discounts (column 2; lines 1-5)

Cater further teaches, when a product is selected by the customer all product groups to which the product belongs and the associated pricing adjustments are identified. (column 3; lines 42-45). The price adjustments for a particular group (purchasing organization) are determined by retrieving the price adjustments for that product from a database table and applying them in sequence to arrive at a final price (column 3; lines 52-55 & column 3; lines 59-62).

Examiner notes that the groups relate to Applicant's calculation code and the price adjustments are the calculation rules. Specifically, each product has associated with it a group (or groups) (i.e. associating a calculation code with an item). In addition, each group (calculation code) has associated with it a set of price adjustments (calculation rules) and these

Art Unit: 3627

price adjustments (calculation rules) are used to produce an amount for a parameter (the amount of the actual adjustment).

Carter also teaches the invention overcoming the disadvantage of having to “hard-code” the “business logic” into the pricing system, therefore the invention provides for flexibility in formulating a desired pricing system while reducing the need to store, maintain and retrieve huge amounts of data (column 4; lines 1-11) (each operation maybe modified and the flow of execution remains the same).

Examiner notes that it is inherent to the system of Carter that the final price be output to a printer, a display device, a storage medium, a database or a connection device. One of these output means is necessarily present in the teachings of Cater in order to communicate the determined price to the customer.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 7/10/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant asserts that Carter fails to teach “wherein the calculation code has an associated qualifying method that is used to determine whether the calculation code is to be applied to the item.” Examiner respectfully disagrees.

As pointed out in the rejection to the claims above, Carter's groups represent Applicant's calculation cde. As each product as associated with it a group (calculation code) which determines whether the calculation code is to be applied to the item, the teachings of Carter clearly include a qualifying method.

Applicant further asserts that Carter fails to teach “using the qualifying method to determine whether to apply the calculation code to the item” and “responsive to a determination that the calculation code is to be applied to the item.” Examiner respectfully disagrees and notes that when the system of Carter determines whether to apply a group (calculation code) is clearly is using the qualifying method. Further when a final price is calculated this is responsive to the determination that the group (calculation code) is to be applied to the item.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

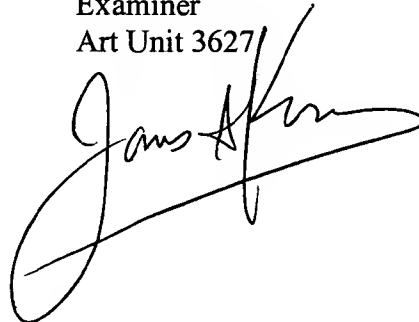
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James A. Kramer whose telephone number is (571) 272 6783. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (8AM - 5PM).

Art Unit: 3627

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Kalinowski can be reached on (571) 272 6771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

James A. Kramer
Examiner
Art Unit 3627

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James A. Kramer', written over a horizontal line.

jak
8/31/06